M&O
Serials
QL 671
.G84

CALIFORNIA
LIBRARY
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 7 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, JANUARY, 1925 NUMBER 1

JANUARY (8th ANNUAL) MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 8th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

Annual reports will be presented and officers and directors elected for the coming year.

Mr. H. S. Swarth, Past President of the Cooper Ornithological Club and Past Honorary President of the Association, will deliver a lecture on the subject of "A Naturalist's Visit in Northern British Columbia." The business of the meeting will be abridged as far as possible so that there will be plenty of time to fully enjoy the lecture and slides. Visitors will be made welcome.

* * *

JANUARY FIELD TRIP will be taken to Lake Merritt, Oakland, on Sunday, January 11th.

San Francisco members will take Key Route boat at 9 a. m., and Grand Avenue car on 22d St. train at the mole, leaving car at Perkins Street and Grand Avenue, where the party will form at 9:45 a. m. and proceed to the duck enclosure on the near-by lake shore, in order to witness the feeding of the wild ducks at 10 a. m.

East Bay members transfer from any main line to Grand Avenue or Lake Shore Avenue cars leaving cars at the above mentioned point.

Although there are many houses in Trestle Glen, a pleasant supplementary walk can still be taken through the district, which has always afforded acceptable habitat for numerous land species of birds.

* * *

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DECEMBER MEETING: The ninety-fifth regular meeting of the Association was held on December 11th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library. In the absence of President Kibbe, and first Vice-president Miss Gunn, the second Vice-President Mrs. Kelly filled the chair. In the absence of Mrs. Carl R. Smith, Secretary, Mrs. Inez Mexia kindly filled the vacancy. There were thirteen members and six guests in attendance.

Mr. Kibbe's absence was occasioned by a trip to the East. It is a great satisfaction to his many friends that recognition of his faithful work in getting people to know birds, to appreciate their value and to conserve them took the form of an invitation from Mr. Wakefield Dorn to attend the National Game Conference of the American Game Protective Association. Upon Mr. Kibbe's return he will be able to tell many interesting things in regard to the progress this country of ours is making in protecting its wild life.

After the reading of the minutes the chair announced the election of two new members by the board of directors. They are Mrs. Mary Meehan and Miss Cornellia C. Pringle. On Dec. 14th Miss Blanch Stevens was elected to membership.

Mrs. Kelly then addressed the meeting on the subject, "Possibilities of Birding in a Small Garden." In the discussion that followed the question of whether or not birds are affected by certain colors caused interesting comments. Mr. Thomas stated that he has a bird bath of Persian blue color and that although it is of the proper depth and birds are about the garden no bird has ever been seen to use the bath nor are there evidences around the bath showing that it has been used. It was suggested that a gray bath and later if possible a terra-cotta colored one be tried out.

The particular garden used as a basis for the address before the Association is located in Alameda, the lot is 50 ft. by 150 ft., the house occupying about 32 ft. by 80 ft., leaving a rear garden of some 50 ft. by 50 ft. Here during the past six years fifty-nine species of birds have been observed.

When speaking of my garden as a place in which to study birds the thoughts of Henry David Thoreau always come to mind, that one can travel far even in an area of a square mile by traveling deeply into the innumerable manifestations of nature for there is such a wealth of life at our very feet if we would but see it.

In any home garden, and I say home garden because I mean the place where a person comes and goes constantly so as to be able to compare happenings day in and out, year after year except for short vacation periods, there are many opportunities for study not found in other fields. Here one can thoroughly learn the songs and calls of certain birds by hearing them repeated over and over again for a long period of time, learn which bird sings the earliest in the morning, which latest at night, whether or not it sings during the day, whether it has certain seasons for song, the number of times it repeats a song in a given interval of time, whether certain individuals have their own peculiar way of singing the usual song for that particular species of bird, manner of feeding, kinds of food taken, fondness of bathing, seasons and dates of migration and if birds are nesting on the grounds one has even greater opportunities than usual.

By this close observation the mannerisms of the common birds are so well impressed on the mind that recognition is almost instant wherever the bird is encountered.

I have found that the Russet-back thrush begins singing about 4:15 a. m., and averaged nineteen times for his song in three minutes. The California Towhee seems to do the greatest amount of singing late in the afternoon and keeps it up most of the evening during the long spring days. The San Francisco Towhee is very fond of bathing but makes a great fuss about it, often going in and out of the bath a dozen times before being finished. Thus one can go on indefinitely recording observations.

Now a word for the busy housewife who is interested in the visitors to her home. Some of the most unusual happenings may occur on washday. Going out to put up the clothes line I flushed a burrowing owl from the garage roof; it perched in a low tree and was flushed again after allowing enough time for a good long look. While thus busily engaged I have often heard the first song of the season from some summer visitant, had a flock of cedar waxwings alight in a tree or hundreds of curlew would fly over my head giving their wild and care-free calls. Again, stepping out on the porch to make the bed, I have had the inspiring sight of a flock of white pelicans slowly winging their way into the blue sky. While sweeping and dusting with the windows wide open one has the opportunity and pleasure of hearing the songs and by them often fixing the dates of the arrivals of old friends.

Instead of giving the list of birds observed I am just going to mention a few of the more unusual occurrences not already mentioned. Among these are the following: Killdeer, black-crowned night heron, Wilson snipe, lazule bunting, western tanager, red-breasted nuthatch, Townsend warbler, varied thrush, wood pewee, kingfisher, wrentit, quail (this lone male quail stayed with us nine months and is still in the neighborhood so may return) and last and I might say least for size, winter wren.

MRS. G. EARLE KELLY.

* * *

Shore birds along the shore of Alameda have been very scarce this fall season, not only in numbers but also in kinds. Often under the most favorable conditions of tide and weather there would not be two dozen birds in sight. I understand that in many places in the interior there have been few such birds on account of the lakes, ponds, etc., having dried up. Could the exceptionally dry season be responsible for a change in their route this year and that in consequence of same they did not stop at the customary beaches and mud flats? If any one has made observations of the movements of shore birds this fall I would appreciate hearing from them.

MRS. G. E. KELLY.

* * *

DECEMBER FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, the 14th to Golden Gate Park. The day was clear and sunny. The leader in charge was Mrs. G. Earle Kelly. Being the last trip for 1924 it was natural that we should complete a good year with the best trip.

Following the usual route we found the varied thrush at the first lake, almost enough reward for the trip at the onset but other finds equally as

pleasurable were to follow. Next a flock of red-breasted nuthatches performed for us on the trunks of the pines.

At the far end of the first lake, the yellow-throat was much in evidence, then we flusht an American Bittern, a rarity for the Park. On the small lake near the Stadium we were entertained by a young black-crowned night heron who turned to all four winds and ate frogs in approved fashion. Just below the Stadium the pygmy nuthatches outdid their red-breasted brothers by going through splendid gyrations. The varied thrush again wanted to be recorded and obliged us by appearing in three localities. A western red-tailed hawk percht for 10 minutes on the top of a cypress and then proceeded to reveal its identity.

At Stow Lake we saw a group of five Canada, Hutchins, and Cackling geese swimming together; not odd at all when you consider their identical appearance but it gave us a good opportunity to check sizes as recorded in the book. Here the party disbanded at 3 p. m.

Birds encountered were: Eared grebe, Pied-billed grebe, western, California, ring-billed, and glaucous-winged gulls; California brown pelican; mallard, shoveller, canvasback, scaup, ring-necked, buffle-head, and ruddy ducks; white-fronted, Canada, Hutchins, and cackling geese; American bittern; great blue and black-crowned night herons; coot, western red-tail hawk, red-shafted flicker, and Anna hummer; black phoebe, purple finch, and junco; Nuttall, fox, and song sparrow; spurred towhee, Audubon and Townsend warblers; yellow-throat, pipit, and Vigors wren; red-breasted and pygmy nuthatches; chickadee, bushtit, golden and ruby-crowned kinglets; western robin, hermit and varied thrushes. Forty-four species. Western and glaucous-winged gulls were seen on the bay.

Members in attendance: Misses Cohen, Paroni, Pettie, Schroder, and Stevens; Mrs. Kelly and Witt; Messrs. Eric Jacobs, Myer, and C. R. Smith. As guests: Misses Allison Thompson, Bastin, Deskin, Howe; Mrs. Wallace; Felix Jacobs and Leland Levinger. Ten members and seven guests.

A. H. Myer, *Historian.*

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

President	A. S. Kibbe	1534 Grove St., Berkeley
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Carl R. Smith	563 42d Ave., San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary	C. B. Lastreto	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer	C. R. Thomas	1605 Rose St., Berkeley

Meets second Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p.m., in Assembly Hall of San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Strects.

Address Bulletin correspondence to President.

Subscription to Bulletin alone, 35c per year. Single copies 5c